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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Spirit of Life, who soars upon the wings of the wind, breathe Your Grace in us. Remind us to be thankful for the people who bless our lives.

Thank You for the people who live exemplary lives and show us what productive living should be. Thank You for the people who inspire us to strive for noble things. Thank You for the people who comfort us, who help ease life's hurts. Thank You for the people who strengthen us, who give us courage to tackle the difficult. Thank You for the people who enlighten us through the written word. Lord, thank You for our Senators, who strive to protect and defend our freedom.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 8404, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 8404, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, what took place here on the floor yesterday was nothing short of the Senate working at its very best. The Senate took a bold step toward securing greater justice for millions of Americans by advancing the Respect for Marriage Act with a resounding bipartisan vote.

Standing here on the floor yesterday, you could feel the sense of relief, of

joy, within the Chamber. After the vote, I got on the phone with my daughter and daughter-in-law and told them the good news, that marriage equality is now on the march toward final passage—thank goodness.

Passing the Respect for Marriage Act is no longer a matter of if but only of when. Later this afternoon, the Senate will take the next step in the process by formally adopting the motion to proceed. After that, both sides will have to work together to reach an agreement for voting on final passage as soon as we can.

Yesterday's vote was a vindication that it was well worth the wait. While nothing was inevitable about the result, I never lost faith that deep down enough of our colleagues would understand how important it was to get this bill done. I am glad that that faith has now been justified.

While some may want to delay this process, make no mistake, there is no stopping this bill from final passage. As I said a moment ago, the question of passage is not about if but when. I hope my Republican colleagues will work with us to move forward with this bill sooner rather than later.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who spearheaded this legislation: Senators Sinema, Baldwin, Collins, Portman, and Tillis. They did terrific work. We wouldn't be here without them.

Finally, I hope this bipartisan legislation, and all others we have passed this Congress, will continue to show how the Senate can function in the upcoming 118th Congress. I have always said I have a hierarchy: First, try to get things done in a bipartisan way whenever possible. It is far better to get things done for the American people than to hold show votes that bring political reckoning but have no hopes of passing. Our job, after all, is to get things passed and make lives better here in the Senate. And when the new Congress begins next year, that will

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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